

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An X-ray unit comprising:
 - an X-ray source whose triggering for an X-ray shot can be blocked automatically upon reaching a thermal loading limit for the X-ray source;
 - a control device configured for controlling the X-ray source;
 - a control element configured to initiate, when operated, an unblocking of the X-ray source when it is blocked; and
 - a display connected to the X-ray unit configured to display an indication related to a period of time that the X-ray source requires in order to leave the thermal loading limit once the thermal loading limit has been reached;wherein
the display and the control element are integrated in a common break-time key.
2. The X-ray unit according to claim 1, wherein the indication is a countdown timer.
3. The X-ray unit according to claim 1, wherein the indication is a text-based percentage of total time indicator.
4. The X-ray unit according to claim 1, wherein the indication is a graphical display of the percentage of total time
5. A break-time key for providing an indication related to a period of time that an X-ray source of an X-ray unit requires in order to leave a thermal loading limit once a

thermal loading limit for an X-ray source has been reached, the break-time key being an integrated unit comprising:

a display configured to display the indication; and

a control element configured to initiate, when operated, an unblocking of the X-ray source when it is blocked due to reaching a thermal loading limit.

6. The break-time key as claimed in claim 5, wherein the break-time key is in the form of an element on a touch-sensitive screen.

7. The break-time key as claimed in claim 5, wherein the break-time key is in a form of a key comprising integrated display chips.

8. The break-time key as claimed in claim 7, wherein the integrated display chips are selected from the group consisting of LCD chips and LED chips.